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GN03004

PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 are pending. Claims 3-6 and 9 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

No new subject matter has been added to the specification.

Claim 2 was objected to for an informality. This objection is rendered moot in view of the cancellation of claim 2.

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Kurata et al. US patent no. 5,552,811. Claims 2-4, 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of Kurata. These rejections are overcome in view of the above amendments to the claims.

Specifically, currently amended claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 each include allowable subject matter as identified in item #6 of the Office Action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed but is not considered material to the patentability of the invention.

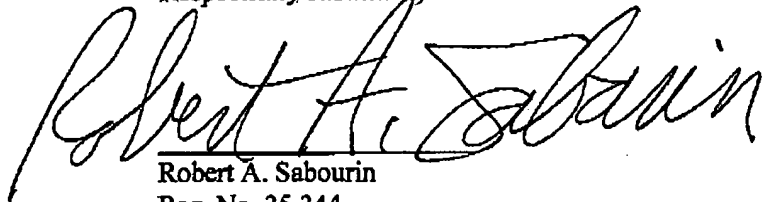
It should be noted that the above arguments are directed towards certain patentable distinctions between the claims and the prior art cited. However, the patentable distinctions between the pending claims and the prior art cited are not necessarily limited to those discussed above.

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In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that each rejection of the Office Action has been addressed and overcome so that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, withdraw the rejections and/or objections, and pass the application to issue. Should questions arise during examination, the Examiner is welcome to contact the applicant's attorney as listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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